

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-6 remain in this application. New claims 4-6 have been added and further describe patentable features of the invention. Claims 4 and 6 provide additional detail regarding location of the claimed projection feature of the invention. Claim 5 provides additional detail regarding the position relationship between multiple projections of the invention.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Japanese Publication No. 10238578 to Toyo Tire & Rubber (hereinafter Toyo '578) in view of US patent 5,056,975 to Ando (hereinafter Ando '975). For the following reasons the Examiner's rejections are traversed.

Toyo '578 discloses a vibration isolating device composed of a lower mounting bracket, mount body carried on the lower bracket via a rubber cushion, an upper mounting bracket crimped to the upper end of the mount body and a bolt for attachment to an engine. An annular stopper plate has a pair of L shaped legs disposed in diametrically opposed relation with each other about an axis of the bolt, the legs each have an oblong hole for the passage therethrough of a screw used for securing each leg to a vehicle body. Toyo '578 does not provide a device to prevent tilt and instability caused by a force applied perpendicular to a line passing through center of the oblong holes.

The present invention is directed to a power unit mount structure including at least one projection protruding from a flange of a mounting member. The flange includes two attachment holes, *but the projection(s) is not in the vicinity of these holes*, instead it is offset from a line connecting the centers of these holes. The projection functions to create stability in the mount structure even in the face of forces applied from a direction perpendicular to a line connecting the two attachment holes. Specifically, when the flange is attached by screws through the holes to a plate, the projection(s) is compressed and deformed and ensures forced engagement of that portion of the flange including the projection with the plate. At a point on the flange opposite the projection, contact between the flange and plate is also made certain, due to the resultant force created by the compressed projection. Thus, any flange/plate clearance caused by irregularities or undulations on a surface of the plate is taken up by the action of the projection and compression thereof.

The Examiner states that although Toyo '578 does not disclose three spaced projections about a flange, Ando '975 teaches providing three spaced projections circumferentially located about a flange to prevent the flange from slipping on the surface to which it is mounted. The Examiner further states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have provided the flange of Toyo '578 with three projections to prevent the flange from slipping from the surface as taught by Ando '975.

Ando '975 discloses a washer with an annular elastic body disposed between a head of a bolt and a seat surface. At least one projection is provided on a surface of the elastic body facing the seat surface. The projection acts to prevent the

washer from slipping or rotating on the seat surface.

There is no motivation or suggestion in the art of record to combine the references in the manner proposed by the Examiner. The references are directed toward solving different problems. Toyo '578, as pointed out by Applicant, lacks any device prevent to mount tilting and instability caused by a force applied perpendicular to a line passing through center of oblong mounting holes. This problem can be accentuated if there are any gaps or clearances between the mounting bracket and support plate; a greater amount of tilt or wobble is possible. Ando '975 is not directed to solving this type of problem however. Ando '975 is directed to preventing the slippage or rotation of an annular washer underneath a tightened bolt, not tilt or wobble which are different types of motion. Further, the type of force likely to cause the problem remedied by Ando '975 is a random vibration, not the application of a direct force in a predetermined direction. Thus, one having ordinary skill in the art would not look to the disclosure of Ando '975 to solve a different motion problem created by a different type of applied force.

Reconsideration of claim 1 is requested.

With regard to claim 2 and 3, even if there was a suggestion in the art to combine the cited references, the resulting combination would not be of a type disclosing the claimed invention, but instead another type different from the claimed invention. Ando '975 teaches placing a washer with an elastic body including a projection between a head of a bolt and a seat surface. The bolt is then tightened. Adding this teaching to Toyo '578 would necessitate placing the washer or similar device with a projection around the oblong holes of the L shaped legs on the annular stopper plate. That way direct force from the screws which are placed through the

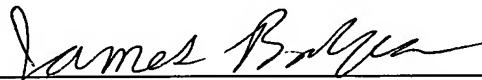
oblong holes would be translated to the washer or similar device and its projection(s). This configuration is not a feature of the invention claimed in claims 2 and 3. Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 2-3 is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. SHM-14978.

Respectfully submitted,

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